

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 28, 2002

PRESENT: Chairman Walker, V. C. Gunnells, Councilmen Norris, Forrester, Thomas, Brown, Calhoun, Director Burns, Clerk to Council, Carol Chrisley

ABSENT: Attorney Pruitt

I. Chairman Walker called the meeting to order with prayer given by Councilman Brown.

First item on the agenda was approval of minutes for regular meeting of October 14, 2002. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve minutes that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. V. C. Gunnells abstained. Motion passed to approve minutes.

**II. Presentations:**

Chairman Walker commented by saying that this meeting is conducted with an agenda and there are provisions in our meeting ordinance allowing for presentations from the public. If you want to be on the agenda for a presentation, you need to contact the County Council Office one week prior to that meeting in order to insure that you will be on the agenda. Another way to be on the agenda is to have someone on council move that you be added to the agenda and voted by a majority of council.

Councilman Thomas requested the indulgence of Council concerning a group from Woodlawn Trailer Park who wished to speak. He made a motion that they have a spokesperson, since they are not on the agenda, and moved that they be added to the agenda. V.C. Gunnells seconded the motion that was passed unanimously. Pastor Leverette spoke on behalf of the group by saying that they were an angry and frustrated people and the process had dragged on long enough. They indicated that they wanted to hook up to a Greenwood CPA water line and wanted council's support. Mary Corley, who runs the trailer park, spoke at the suggestion of County Director Burns and indicated that the snag lay largely in a territorial concern and she wanted a commitment from county council to get the problem corrected. Councilman Thomas expressed his support for the residents and Council agreed to authorize the drafting of a letter to USDA Rural Development in support of having the residents hooked up. Chairman Walker made a motion to this effect that was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

**III. Committee Reports:**

- A. Councilman Norris, Chair of Public Safety Committee had nothing to report
- B. Councilman Forrester, Chair of Intergovernmental Relations had nothing to report
- C. Councilman Thomas, Chair of Planning And Industrial had nothing to report
- D. Chairman Walker, Chair of Finance Committee had nothing to report

**E.** Councilman Brown, Chair of Personnel and Administration announced that this committee would be meeting on October 31 in the County Council Chambers of the Courthouse at 6PM to discuss the Personnel Policy.

**F.** Vice Chairman Gunnells, Chair of Ad-Hoc Committee on Office Space said, at present, the Bldg. & Codes are moving to Voc. Rehabilitation at the County Office Bldg.

**G.** Councilman Calhoun, Chair of Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare had nothing to report

**H.** Chairman Walker, Chair of Ad-Hoc Committee on Computerization of County Government had nothing to report.

#### **IV. Old Business**

**A.** Consideration of 2nd Reading to extend the Donalds-Due West Service Area Further into Western Abbeville County. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to have 2nd Reading that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

#### **V. New Business**

**A.** A Resolution authorizing the Abbeville County Treasurer to transfer monies from the LOST Checking Account to the General Fund in the amount of \$22,597.88. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve this request that was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

**B.** A resolution designating the two official Christmas Holidays for Abbeville County Employees. It was recommended that December 25 and 26 be the designated holidays for employees. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the Resolution that was seconded by Councilman Norris. Director Burns asked council to consider, given the fact that there would be no awards dinner or anything of that nature for county employees that between now and the next meeting that council consider the possibility of also closing the courthouse on Christmas Eve at noon to allow for people who may be going out of town the option to leave on Christmas Eve. Motion passed unanimously to adopt the resolution.

**C.** Consideration of 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend ordinance 90-7 as it relates to Personnel Policies and procedures for Abbeville County and more specifically the hiring of relatives within Abbeville County Government. Chairman Walker made reference to this ordinance by eliminating Section B(2)(a) that Employment of close relatives may be permitted in strictly emergency situations for temporary periods of time, not to exceed (30) calendar days, with the approval of the County Council in cases where other qualified applicants are not available for an essential task. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to approve 1st Reading of this ordinance, as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

**D.** A Resolution awarding an engineering bid to DRE Inc. for engineering work on the George Alewine Convenience Center not to exceed \$10,750. Councilman Brown made a

motion to approve this request that was seconded by Councilman Forrester. After a brief discussion, motion was passed unanimously.

**E.** Consideration of 1st Reading to purchase two acres of property for Site No. 6 Convenience Center on the Old Calhoun Falls Highway near Calhoun Falls to be purchased from Frank Kennedy, Jr. Councilman Thomas made a motion to have 1st Reading that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

**F.** Professional Services rendered by Ward Russell Burns on Tobacco Settlement Grant in the amount of \$2000 to be paid out of the Infrastructure Fund. V. C. Gunnells made a motion to approve this request that was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.

**G.** John LeRoy US Forestry Title III Funds Projects for FY 2003. He addressed Council by saying that the total funds for 2003 were \$21,288. The proposed programs will be advertised in the paper for 45 days in order to receive comments. At the end of the 45 day period, a public hearing is held and county council makes a final decision on the use of these funds. By law, the decision by Council is to be forwarded to the state by October 1st. Since we are a behind schedule on terms of this being done, we need to get moving with it in order to appropriate these funds. Councilman Forrester made a motion that we advertise the recommendations for 45 days that was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.

**H.** Resolution setting the Christmas Bonus for county employees. Chairman Walker said that according to the resolution, all fulltime employees would receive a bonus of \$100 including applicable taxes and \$25 including applicable taxes to part time employees. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

**I.** Councilman Brown made a motion that we add another item **(I)** to the agenda. He made a motion that on December 24th, Christmas Eve, that County Offices have the opportunity to close at 12:00 noon. Councilman Norris seconded this motion. After a brief discussion it was agreed also that public service employees would be compensated as if they were working on holidays either at time and a half or double.

**J.** Chairman Walker made a motion to add to the agenda the discussion of the scheduled November 11th meeting that falls on Veterans Day. V. C. Gunnells seconded the motion that was passed unanimously. After a brief discussion, Councilman Forrester made a motion that we move the meeting to November 25th and cancel the meeting scheduled for November 11. Councilman Norris seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

## **VI. Director's Report**

**A.** Handout of County Council Meetings after January 1, 2003.

**B.** Discussion of Donalds/Due West Water Authority.

**VII. Executive Session:**

**A. Contractual Matters.** Councilman Forrester made a motion to go into executive session that was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously. Chairman Walker stated that there was one item discussed in executive session that needed to be acted upon. Councilman Forrester made a motion to allow the Development Board Director, Jamie Gilbert to begin negotiations to offer a potential industry up to \$25,000 in the form of a loan or grant as an incentive to locate in our county. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

Councilman Forrester made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.